CHIRP
Digital Radio Programming
Made Easy

Creede Lambard
Mercury Northwest
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You have an IQ of 150 . . .
a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from MIT . . .
you’ve been an Extra Class ham for over 30 years . . .
AND YOU STILL CAN’T FIGURE OUT HOW TO PROGRAM YOUR HANDHELD!!
Hint: It’s not you, it’s the handheld
Manufacturer-supplied software

- Works fine
- Can cost extra $$$$$
- User interface can be confusing
- Some programs default to non-English
- May only work with one radio or family of radios
Manufacturer-supplied software

- And . . . you need a cable
Suppose you have two radios . . .

- What then?
Chirp to the rescue!!
Chirp to the rescue!!

- Created by Dan Smith, KK7DS
- Cross-platform
  - Works on Windows, Mac and Linux
  - (no iOS or Android version yet, though)
- Well-supported
- Easy to use
- Works with many radio models
Some of the radios Chirp supports:
How to get Chirp

• Go to http://chirp.danplanet.com

• Check the list of radios – is yours supported?
  • All of the big four are supported
  • Several Chinese brands including Baofeng

• Take a look at the documentation and FAQ

• Click on the “Get It!” button
Installing Chirp

- **Windows**
  - Scroll down to “Windows Installer”
  - Click the link to download & install
- **Mac**
  - Scroll down to “Mac OS X”
  - Download “chirp-0.3.1.app.zip”
  - Open the archive and put the app in a folder of your choice
- **Linux**
  - Packages for Fedora and Debian/Ubuntu
  - Source tarball for the truly adventurous
Connecting your radio to the computer

- You need a serial adapter cable
- USB or RS-232 adapter on one side, usually mic/speaker connectors on the other
- Make sure your cable is correct for your radio
WARNING! Driver cable problems may be ahead!

- If your cable says it has a Prolific chip, make sure it’s not a knockoff
- FTDI chips (to my knowledge) and RS-232 adapters are not affected
- Of course there’s a story behind this . . .
Using the software
Using the software

- Starting out
Using the software

- Getting data from your radio
Using the software

- The table view
Using the software

- Export to CVS
- Edit in Excel
- Import back into Chirp
Using the software

- Using a “stock config”
Using the software

- Save to an IMG file
- Reload the IMG file
Using the software

• Share data between radios
  • First radio
    - Save data as IMG file
    - Export data to CVS format
  • Second radio
    - Open IMG file
    - Load data from CVS format
    - Upload to radio
Resources

- Chirp home page @ chirp.danplanet.com
- Chirp mailing list - http://intrepid.danplanet.com/mailman/listinfo/chirp_users
- Chirp users – including me!
Questions?
Thank you!

- The PPT deck will be available at http://www.lambard.net/radio/chirp.ppt
- Contact me: creede@gmail.com or wa7kpk@arrl.net